

Engagement Session with the States

What types of information would you like APHIS to share after this meeting? Who should be sharing this information?

- Progress updates
- Start getting the message out that changes are coming; a uniform, positive message.
- Cindy's presentation on the regulatory process and timetable
- Printed summaries of this meeting like the conclusions we just discussed are very helpful to us.
- USDA should not be contacting people in my state; states should be on first in communicating with those in our state.
- State Animal Health Officials and AVIC's should both receive information from the working group and USDA.
- AVIC's weren't here, and it is probably as much a challenge to educate them as it is to educate our producers. AVIC's need to be in the process now.
- We have a lot of work to do in the next few months. We need to have an opportunity to reach out to our own industry to talk with them more before advertising a lot of commitments right now. You guys should help us message. Lot of issues yet to be resolved. We have committed to working together on this. The media and industry are waiting for us back at home now. We should just say we will be working together.
- Animal ID coordinators also need to be getting the information.
- The document summarizing our conclusions is not marked draft because it IS what we talked about.

- Is it possible for this group and the AVIC's to get updates after each Regulatory Workgroup meeting/call?
- National Assembly calls – USDA personnel, and also Tribal members could join us on those calls. These are monthly.
- Emails are also desired. However, once things are emailed, may be FOIA'ed.
- USDA personnel urge that USDA post something on our Traceability site like we promised the NIAA. We are committed to transparency. Folks on the working group represent small states and diversified industries.
- Sharing information with producers:
 - It would be best if USDA would take more of a “backing” role. States seem to have a little more credibility with producers. For instance, if Minnesota group calls USDA for more information on this topic, it would be best if USDA would ask them to call Minnesota for more information on what went on. We can engage with National groups too.
 - CA is very comfortable with Dr. Clifford talking to National Organizations.
 - Neil – How should working group members get input from the producers? He is already getting emails from producer organizations?
 - If APHIS gets calls from producers wanting to know how to get input into the regulation, we should refer them to the State rather than just to the working group members.